

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis containing phytosphingosine derivatives as effective components.

2. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 1, wherein ~~characterized by that~~ said phytosphingosine derivatives are one or more compounds selected from a group comprised of phytosphingosine, phytosphingosine-HCl, C6-phytosphingosine, CLA-phytosphingosine, tetraacetyl phytosphingosine, and N-acetyl phytosphingosine.

3. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis of ~~claims 1 and 2~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> or calcipotriol is contained additionally in said phytosphingosine derivatives.

4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of various skin diseases, various tumors, various cancers, and other diseases that may be prevented or cured by the induction of the activity of apoptosis in living bodies.

5. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 4, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of abnormal skin diseases such as eczema, psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others; skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, dermatitis, itching, microbism, acne, wound, and others; abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging; and skin cancer and others.

6. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 5, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of abnormal skin diseases such as psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others and abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 5, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of skin cancer.

8. (Original) A cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis containing phytosphingosine derivatives as effective components.

9. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 8, wherein ~~characterized by that~~ said phytosphingosine derivatives are one or more compounds selected from a group comprised of phytosphingosine, phytosphingosine-HCl, C6-phytosphingosine, CLA-phytosphingosine, tetraacetyl phytosphingosine, and N-acetyl phytosphingosine.

10. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of ~~claims 8 and 9 characterized by that~~ claim 8, wherein vitamin D<sub>3</sub> or calcipotriol is contained additionally in said phytosphingosine derivatives.

11. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of ~~claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of various skin diseases, various tumors, various cancers, and other diseases that may be prevented or cured by the induction of the activity of apoptosis in living bodies.

12. (Original) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 12, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of abnormal skin diseases such as eczema, psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others; skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, dermatitis, itching, microbism, acne, wound, and others; abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging; and skin cancer and others.

13. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 12, which is useful for the prevention or treatment of abnormal skin diseases such as psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others; and abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging.

14. (Original) The cosmetic composition for the induction of apoptosis of claim 12, which is useful for the treatment of skin cancer.

15. (Original) A method of prevention or treatment of various skin diseases, various tumors, various cancers, and other diseases that may be prevented or cured by the induction of the activity of apoptosis in living bodies, comprising the steps of the administration of compositions for the induction of apoptosis containing phytosphingosine derivatives as effective components and of the irradiation of UVB to a psoriatic lesion.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of prevention or treatment of various skin diseases, various tumors, various cancers, and other diseases of claim 15, wherein ~~characterized by that~~ said phytosphingosine derivatives are one or more compounds selected from a group comprised of phytosphingosine, phytosphingosine-HCl, C6-phytosphingosine, CLA- phytosphingosine, tetraacetyl phytosphingosine, and N-acetyl phytosphingosine.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of prevention or treatment of claim 15, wherein abnormal skin diseases such as eczema, psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others; skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, dermatitis, itching, microbism, acne, wound, and others; abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging; and skin cancer and others are prevented or treated of ~~claims 15 and 16.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of prevention or treatment of claim 17, wherein abnormal skin diseases such as psoriasis, ichthyosis, and others and abnormal skin diseases induced by a long-time exposure to UV light and dermal aging are prevented or treated of ~~claim 17.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of prevention or treatment of claim  
17, wherein skin cancer is prevented or treated ~~of claim 17~~.